

**APPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**

Minutes: Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)
Date of Meeting: Thursday, September 27, 2007
Place of Meeting: Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Meeting Rm.

I. Roll Vice Chair Arthur called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arefi, Chen, Dugdale, Grilli,
McCarter, Ortega, & Wan
Commissioners/Alternates Absent: Arthur, Mateo
City Council Liaison present: Vice Mayor Livengood
City Mayor present: Mayor Esteves
MUSD Liaison absent: Montano
Staff present: Cuciz, Maxwell

II. Alternates Alternate Commissioners Chen and Ortega were seated.

III. Pledge Chair Grilli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Minutes **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of August 23, 2007.

M/S: Arefi/Ortega Ayes: All

V. Agenda **MOTION** to approve the September 27, 2007 agenda.

M/S: Dugdale/Arefi Ayes: All

VI. Announcements/Correspondence

New alternate commissioner Chen introduced himself to commissioners who were not present at the prior meeting.

VII. Citizen's Forum

None attending.

VIII. Old Business

1. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

Chair Grilli stated that the current proposal is to host a delegation of adults and students later this year or early next year. No other specific arrangements about the trip have been determined yet. Staff received a list of 6 adults who may be attending and a list of students that included an 11 year old student, however, it was determined that the 11 year old is too young for the exchange. Staff will be sending an invitation letter to 9

students. Grilli gave Huizhou dates to assist them in scheduling the trip and he noted that Milpitas is being as flexible as possible with dates for them to visit.

2. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILLIPINES: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

Staff noted that a group of 4 delegates would visit in October of this year. The primary intent of the visit is to have an official signing of the time extensions of the sister city relationship and this would take place at the City Council meeting on October 16, 2007. It was determined that the signing would take place at the dais. A gift exchange will occur during this time as well. The commissioners also recommended a small break after the official signing that would include refreshments. All commissioners are invited to attend. Chair Grilli noted that all of the Philippines is on the do not travel list from the State Department which makes Milpitas schools unable to sponsor sending students to Dagupan at this time, but Philippine students are welcome to visit Milpitas. Mayor Esteves reminded commissioners about the annual city celebration in December for Dagupan and he also noted that the delegation will make an announcement about their December event at the City Council meeting.

Grilli requested that another commission member step forward to handle Dagupan with him until Commissioner Mateo returns. Commissioner Dugdale volunteered and is now the new “acting” lead until Mateo returns.

3. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN: SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

No report.

4. WESTERN EUROPEAN SISTER CITY RESEARCH

No report. Chair Grilli noted that he had an inquiry from Delft, Holland, a high tech university city.

5. STUDENT PARTICIPATION IDEAS

Chair Grilli noted that the decline in student participation would likely continue to be a problem due to the condition of the world and family finances. He stated the need to look at ways the commissioners could arrange an exchange with students that does not involve travel. He also distributed a note from Marsha Grilli; MUSD board Chair about student participation issues that included the same points about travel safety matters and family finance issues. Vice Mayor Livengood brought up the point that post 9/11 children are growing up in a different world. He noted that some time will have to pass before impressions change again about world travel and perhaps 4 to 5 years from now this will be less of an issue. Livengood mentioned his idea where there could be an Internet site – a project where Milpitas kids try to make contact with the current sister cities and have some connection and cultural exchange via the Internet. Commissioner Dugdale mentioned the possibility of using MySpace and stated that there are some protections where you have to be invited and adults from each sister city could monitor who is allowed in to the site. Then the kids could discuss everything from school to music to popular trends. Staff will check to see if Sister Cities International has some sort of chat room or way to communicate with other cities. Staff will also check with the IS Department about capabilities for classroom-to-classroom

video conferencing. Commissioner Wan noted that some sister cities may not have the same technology abilities as Milpitas or may have some Internet restrictions. Commissioner Arefi again noted how much benefit there is in actually visiting another country. Dugdale noted that having additional Internet communication might help to make students and families more comfortable to visit another country at some point. Commissioner Ortega talked about finding new ways to approach parents and teachers about the importance of a student exchange. She asked about talking to teachers that belong to churches and making an announcement at a church. The commission noted that this would be okay. Ortega gave an example of elementary school students exchanging a quilt with students in England, which generated interest in taking the children to England. She also talked about fundraising again and working with families more closely. Staff noted that at some point the city could put a video wave on their website. Grilli mentioned the huge challenge about communicating with parents of students – he noted that the commission has already tried many of the ideas presented by newer commissioners, but any new ideas or efforts are welcome. Commissioner McCarter asked about attending the school sites for a monthly meeting to talk to teachers and parents, for example at the PTA. Dugdale stated that some commission members did attend PTA meetings for a while and noted that many of the parents on the PTA are those that are already very involved.

Commissioner Wan asked if he could investigate the potential for a sister city in Taiwan. It was the consensus of the Commission that he proceed with the research and Grilli directed staff to put the topic on the next Commission meeting agenda.

IX. New Business

6. 2008 NOVEMBER & DECEMBER MEETING DATES

MOTION to cancel the November and December 2008 meetings.

M/S: Dugdale/McCarter Ayes: All

It was the consensus of the commission that the November and December 2007 meetings would be cancelled unless a special meeting was needed to accommodate a visit from Huizhou, China.

X. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

No report.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT

No report.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Sister City Relationships/Cultural Exchanges:
 - a. Tsukuba City, Japan
 - b. Dagupan City, Philippines
 - c. Huizhou City, China
2. European Sister City Research

3. Student Participation Ideas
4. Taiwan Sister City Research
5. Proposed Library Art Presentation

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

No further business was discussed and the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on October 25, 2007.

MOTION to adjourn.

M/S: McCarter/Arefi Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz
Recording Secretary

Cindy Maxwell
Principal Administrative Analyst